

issued and then the transfer of the redevelopment site would take place and the construction would begin. So what I am trying to say is that I believe very much in public input, public participation. But this bill as it already exists provides for that. It also provides for something we talk about a great deal down here on the floor of the Legislature and that is it provides for local control that we provide the authorization and the framework and that we allow local governments, city councils in the state of Nebraska to decide for themselves whether a project is in the best interests of that community and whether or not they will commit themselves to using the community improvement financing option which they are allowed. This local control concept is very important in this bill...in this legislation. We have a situation that when you talk about local control in Lincoln, the Lincoln City Council supported seven to nothing, unanimously supported this bill, LB 986, which is before you today, and if you know the Lincoln City Council that is a very atypical situation, but they do agree unanimously on the need for this clarifying language, on the need for this bill, and they will provide the checks and balances that I think are necessary to protect the public good. I have confidence in our local governments. I have confidence in the Lincoln City Council concerning the Cornhusker project. I have confidence in other projects that will be proposed, that the local governments will be able to provide for the public input and will be able to provide the checks and balances we need. I commend Senator Beutler for his amendment, but I don't find it necessary. I believe that we have the appropriate protections in the bill as it stands, and I don't believe it is necessary to amend the bill further. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Dworak. Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I rise to support the Beutler amendment. I see no harm in letting the people vote on this important issue. The peoples' money is involved and I only wish Senator Beutler had been on the committee to hear the bill. He could have explained much better than some of the rest of us that there really is a cost involved to the taxpayers of the city, and since there is this cost involved, what is the harm in letting the people vote on it? If it is a project that should be financed in this way, I am sure that the city council and the other people in the city can convince the voters that this is to their advantage and then the project would be supported by the majority of the people in